



Navajo Housing Authority

CONTACT: Christian Bigwater, Public Information Officer

Office – (928) 871-2614

Cell – (505) 652-0172

cbigwater@hooghan.org

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NHA awards \$34M in ARRA stimulus fund contracts

Revamping its development processes to incorporate green building



Chief Executive Officer of NHA Aneva J. Yazzie with members of NHA's Board of Commission at ARRA signing contract event held on May 17 at the NHA central office.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Housing Authority awarded six contracts today all of which are being funded under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) at a contract signing event held from 11:00am to 12:00pm at the NHA central office in Window Rock, Ariz.

Less than a year ago, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated \$510 million for 562 Tribes to be used for new construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, including energy efficiency and conservation, and infrastructure development for Native American Housing.

On May 8, 2009 NHA was awarded \$34,412,126 from the Native American Housing Block Grant.

Since then, NHA has requested bid invitations for ARRA projects, in which it received much attention, and on May 7 the NHA board of commissioners approved the awarding of five contracts, with an additional contract awarded on May 17 to the following companies:

- Arviso Construction for street rehabilitation of eleven housing subdivisions in New Mexico.

- Woodruff Construction for street rehabilitation and complete road re-construction of six housing subdivisions in Arizona.
- LOR Construction for the replacement of 1,557 furnace units in Arizona consisting of either natural gas, LP gas or electric furnaces with energy conservation and efficiency furnace replacements.
- Dean Douglas Homes for the replacement of 1,382 furnace units in New Mexico consisting of either natural gas, LP gas or electric furnaces with energy conservation and efficiency furnace replacements.
- Yazzie Greensburg Construction for the construction of 23 townhouse style two-story attached single family homeownership units within the Karigan Estates location in St. Michaels, Ariz.
- Souers Construction for the construction of 25 housing units in Iyanbito, New Mexico funded by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act and an additional 20 units in Chichiltah and 20 units in Crownpoint, New Mexico, both funded by ARRA funds for a total of 65 new housing units.

Vice-Chair of NHA's Board of Commission Edward T. Begay addressed the crowd and congratulated the contractors on their success, "We are pleased that you successfully submitted all your paper work and that you have done your due diligence in your business," Teller said. "The NHA Board of Commissioners wishes all of you well in performing your construction work."

Also addressing the crowd is NHA Chief Operating Officer Derrith Watchman-Moore who is excited about the 65 new housing units especially the completion of two housing units being constructed in Chichiltah and Crownpoint, New Mexico, both using 'green building' methods in the construction process.



Chief Executive Officer of NHA Aneva J. Yazzie and Souers Construction representative at the signing event hosted by NHA held on May 17 at the NHA central office

"I am excited NHA is unveiling new home designs that are energy efficient with basic amenities as energy star rated windows, appliances, and HVAC systems. I am especially thrilled to unveil that two of these homes are designed and engineered to be LEED certifiable," Moore said. "These homes will contain a gray water system for landscaping and gardening, use "green" aerated blocks in the walls to enhance insulation values for heating and cooling, and will maximize use of natural lighting by the home's orientation on site."

LEED is a certification program and the nationally accepted standard for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. NHA has been working hard over the last year to improve on incorporating greens technologies in its construction methods states Moore.

Overall, NHA will have awarded the full ARRA funding allocation of \$34,412,126 million meeting the HUD deadline obligation of May 18, 2010.

Chairman of NHA's board of commissioners Leonard Teller speaks on the accomplishment NHA has achieved, "All eyes, across the Navajo Nation and across the country, look to see how NHA handles the ARRA funding," Teller said. "I am confident to say that the NHA has done their due diligence with the selection of the six companies."

NHA will now move into project implementation to meet the next deadline milestone of fifty percent funds expenditure by May 18, 2011, followed by the full obligation of funds no later than May 18, 2012.

“We are on schedule contrary to naysayers from the public and certain media,” Chief Executive Officer of NHA Aneva J. Yazzie states. “And expect to complete the projects ahead of schedule within the two year timeframe allowed by the federal government, benefiting our Navajo families.”

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